



PHOTO: STAR

Sellers at Baliadanga flower market in Kaliganj upazila under Jhenidah district are visibly frustrated as there are hardly any customers due to transport problem amid blockades and hartals. Inset, unsold flowers being used as fodder at a house of Boro Ghighati village in the upazila.



Flower growers in trouble as blockade hinders trade

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Around 3500 flower growers in the district are incurring huge losses due to rotting of flowers amid the transport problem caused by frequent blockades and hartals enforced by BNP-led 18-party alliance.

Around 1500 bighas of land have been brought under flower cultivation in Jhenidah district this year, said sources of the Department of Agriculture Extension.

But 80 percent of matured flowers in the fields

have already rotten during the last several days of blockades and hartals, they said.

Visiting 6-No Trilochonpur union and 5-No Simlarokonpur union on Thursday, this correspondent found farmers damaging matured flowers at their plots as they are not able to sell it due to road blockades.

Flower growers said now they are selling a jhopa comprising 800 flowers for only Tk 20/30 while it sold for Tk 250/300 around three weeks ago.

"Flowers are perishable item. But as few functions are held due to political unrest marked by blockades and hartals there is very little demand for flowers and its prices have fallen. Besides, there is no cold storage to preserve flowers," said flower trader Abdur Rahman Sheikh.

"I have cultivated flowers on four bighas of land this year. It has cost me Tk one lakh 60 thousand. But I have sold flowers worth Tk 80 thousand only. I will incur huge losses if the blockades continue," said Abdur

Razzak, a flower grower of Boro-Ghigati village in Kaliganj upazila.

Flower grower Kutub Uddin said they are now using the flowers as fodder as local flower traders are reluctant to purchase the item.

"I had taken loan from an NGO to cultivate flower. It will be difficult for me to repay the loan this year if the situation continues," he said.

Monoranjon Biswas, Swapon Mondol and Amirul Islam have similar tales to tell.

Two shot in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Two people were shot by criminals at Hasinsonpur and Atarakchhara under Dighinala upazila of the district on Monday night.

The victims were identified as Dipan Joti Chakma, 38, former president of Democratic Youth Forum Dighinala upazila unit, and Kaladhan Chakma alias Nayon, 30, a member of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) MN Larma faction.

Police quoted locals as saying that unidentified criminals opened fire on Dipan in Hasinsonpur area at around 7:30 pm and Kaladhan in Atarakchhara area of the upazila at around 8:30 pm.

Officer-In-charge Sahadat Hossain of Dighinala Police Station said the two were admitted to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital. The victims did not file any case with the police station

BSF picks up 2 from Thakurgaon border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) members picked up two Bangladeshi cattle traders from near Beurjhari border in Baliadangi upazila early Monday.

The two were identified as Jahangir Alam, 22, and Shahidul Haque, 23, of Ratnai Sutkpara village in the upazila.

Commanding Officer of 30, BGB Battalion Lt. Colonel Kamal Ahmed told this correspondent over cellphone that a BSF patrol team of Barabillah BSF camp picked up the two Bangladeshi cattle traders from a place near Beurjhari point at about 3:00 am.

In the morning, BGB sent a letter to BSF asking it to return the two cattle traders.

Later, a Company Commander-level flag meeting was held between the two border guards at 1:30 pm.

At the meeting, the BSF said that the Bangladeshis were caught from about 30 yards inside Indian territory and later handed over to Goalpukur police station in Uttar Dinaipur district of Paschimanga, India, on

Clash over cricket match, 20 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

At least 20 people, including a policeman, were injured in a clash between two groups over a cricket match yesterday at Gochhamara village in Bhairab upazila.

Police and locals said two local teams—one led by Saat Bhai Bari and another by Bhelar Bari—engaged in an altercation over the match on Monday.

As a sequel to the conflict, people of Bhelar Bari equipped with lethal weapons, attacked the men of Saat Bhai Bari, prompting them to retaliate yesterday morning.

At least eight houses were damaged during the clash.

The injured were admitted to Bhairab Halh Complex and other clinics.

MARCH 3 VIOLENCE IN BOGRA

Charges pressed against 117 Jamaat-Shibir activists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Charges have been pressed against 117 Jamaat-Shibir men in three cases filed with Shahjahanpur Police Station in connection with March 3 violence in the upazila.

Officer-in-Charge Abdullah-Al-Hasan, also the investigation officer (IO) of the cases, submitted the charge sheets to the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on Monday.

Following a rumour that Delwar Hossain Sayedee's face was seen on the moon,

Jamaat-Shibir men, equipped with lethal weapons, set fire to upazila Awami League and muktioddha offices and vandalised several government offices.

They later attacked Shahjahanpur Police Station, vandalised a police van and a motorbike there and locked in a clash with law enforcers. Four Jamaat-Shibir were killed and five policemen were injured during the clash.

Police fired around 236 rounds of bullets and tear-gas shells to disperse

the unruly Jamaat-Shibir men.

Immediately after the incident, three cases under the Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act and the Special Powers Act were filed with the police station, accusing 160 Jamaat-Shibir men.

After investigation, police pressed charges against 117 Jamaat-Shibir activists. The investigation officer dropped the names of the remaining accused from the charge sheets as they were not found involved in the violence.



PHOTO: STAR

Railway staff Ashrafur Alam, whose presence of mind and courage saved the train passengers from a certain disaster due to removing of rail line by criminals at Uri Madhabpara village in Joypurhat Sadar upazila on November 27, receives a crest as a token of honour from Joypurhat Superintendent of Police Hamidul Alam yesterday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II)
LGED Bhaban (Level-11), Agargaon
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Memo No. LGED/PD/RTIP-2/P-03(Part-1)/2011/1977

Date: 09/12/2013

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Performance Based Maintenance Contract Advisor (National)

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit from payments under contracts for the Services of Performance Based Maintenance Contract Advisor under Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II).

The primary objectives of this assignment is to assist Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) to select and implement Performance Based Maintenance Contract including survey, design and preparation of bidding documents ensuring compliance with the policies/guidelines of the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and the International Development Association (IDA) under Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II). Details of the services for the assignment are as follows:

- No. of the Post: One**
- Duration of the Service: 36 (thirty-six) months**
- Educational qualification**

Graduate in Civil Engineering or equivalent.

- Experience & adequacy for the assignment:**

Graduate in Civil Engineering or equivalent having 15 years' experience including minimum ten years' experience as expert/specialist in road maintenance. Experience in design, contract formulation, and implementation of Performance Based Maintenance Contract will be considered as additional qualification.

- Suitability:**

- Fully conversant with and have had hands on experience in implementation of road maintenance contract and also have good understanding in selection of road for PBMC contract, detailed estimate preparation, define service level.
- Proven track record of preparation of bid document, contract management of road maintenance works preferably PBMC contract.
- Experience in effective supervision of personnel.
- Self-guided, strong organisational and planning skills with the ability to work independently as a team player under pressure.
- Strong interpersonal communicative skills, experience in team leadership and participatory management.
- Ability to impart training to the LGED/project's staff on PBMC Contract.

The Project Director, TRIP-II, LGED now invites eligible applicants to apply for the position. Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV with other details as required).

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the selection of individual consultants procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011.

The advertisement is also available in the website of LGED & CPTU. Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) will be available upon request from the office of the undersigned through email or in person during office hours on weekdays.

Expressions of Interest shall be submitted on or before **08/01/2014** on weekdays during office hours in sealed envelope sent to **Project Director, Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II), LGED Bhaban (Level-11), LGED, Dhaka-1207** and be clearly marked "Expressions of Interest for Performance Based Maintenance Contract Advisor". Submission through e-mail (the name of the position mentioned in the subject line) will also be accepted provided it is delivered within the deadlines.

The client reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Expression of Interest (EOI)

Md. Mostafa Kamal
Project Director

Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II)
LGED Bhaban (Level-11), LGED, Dhaka-1207

Phone: +88 02 9120218

Fax: + 88 02 8157511

E-mail: pdrtip2.lged@yahoo.com

GD-4741

SNIPPETS

'Robber' killed in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

An alleged robber was killed in mob beating at Mirapara village in Niamotpur upazila of Naogaon district early yesterday. The deceased is Saiful Islam alias Saidul, 45, son of Komiruddin of Gulihar-Shalbari village. Mosidul Haque, assistant sub-inspector of Niamotpur police station, said a gang stormed into the house of one Moznu in the area at midnight and tried to take away a shallow engine. Hearing the hue and cry, locals rushed in and caught Saiful red handed. However, his accomplices managed to flee. The angry villagers then gave Saiful a good beating, leaving him dead on the spot. The body was sent to Naogaon Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said the SI.

26 shops gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

At least 26 spice shops were gutted in a devastating fire at Rajabazar in the town on Monday night. The flame originated from an electric short circuit at a shop and soon engulfed the adjoining shops around 10:00 pm. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after two hours of frantic efforts, said Md Nizam Uddin, deputy assistant director (DAD) of Bogra fire service. The affected shop owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 16 crore.

Girl commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A college girl allegedly committed suicide at Manduyur village in Sadullapur upazila yesterday. The deceased is Leena Akhter, 18, a first year student of Sadullapur Girls' College. Zia Latiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Sadullapur Police Station, said family members found Leena's body hanging from the ceiling of her room in the morning. The body was sent to Gaibandha Sader Hospital morgue for autopsy. Police suspected that she took her life by taking poison. The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately, they said.

Firearms seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police seized two firearms from a paddy field in Birampur upazila yesterday noon. However, none was arrested in this connection. Police said on secret information, a team raided the field at Chandipur village and recovered a shotgun and pistol.

Man beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A man was beaten to death allegedly by his nephew at Ramdhan village in Sunderganj upazila yesterday. The deceased is Abdul Jalil, 60, of the area. Police said there was a longstanding conflict between Jalil and his nephew Nazmul Huda over a piece of disputed land. Yesterday noon, when Jalil was going to the land for collecting bamboos he was resisted by Nazmul. At one stage, Nazmul beat up his uncle mercilessly, leaving him critically injured. He died on way to the upazila health

Clashes over land leave one killed, 70 injured

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Criminals torched a house over a piece of disputed land in Phuldighi area under Shahjahanpur upazila of Bogra early Monday.

The loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 1 crore, claimed house owner Zahidul Islam.

A gang set alight the house at midnight when the family members were asleep. However, they survived the attempt on their lives in the arson attack, reports our correspondent.

My neighbour Nayeb Ali had been claiming the ownership of the land of the house for long, said Zahidul. He blamed Ali and his men for the arson attack.

Meanwhile, senior station officer of Bogra fire service Dewan Shohel Rana said the reason behind the fire could not be known immediately.

Contacted, Nayeb Ali refuted the allegation.

The house might have been set on fire as a sequel to the land feud, said officer-in-charge of Shahjahanpur police station Mahmudul Alam.

Punitive action would be taken against those responsible for the offence after investigating the matter,

said the OC.

In Pabna, a young man was killed and 10 other people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over a land-related dispute at Kenai Madhyapara in Faridpur upazila on Friday morning.

The deceased was identified as Zakirul Islam Zaku, 35, son of Sohrab Pramanik of the village, reports UNB.

Locals and police said, there had been a longstanding conflict between Zakirul Islam and Ramzan of the village over a piece of land.

As a sequel to the conflict, men of the duo equipped with lethal arms locked in a clash in the village at about 9:00 am, leaving Zakirul dead on the spot and 10 others injured.

In Habiganj, at least 60 people were injured in a clash between two groups of over disputed land at Gunoy village in Baniachong upazila on Monday, according to our Moulvibazar correspondent.

The clash ensued when a group, led by Mukit Miah, attacked the supporters of Shalek Miah while the latter came to settle the dispute, said police.

At one stage of altercation, both groups attacked each others, leaving 60 people injured from both sides.



PHOTO: STAR

Unscrupulous people have continued erection of structures on a canal at Nathullahbar in Barisal city, choking up the already dying water body.